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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,959	03/01/2002	Takashi Kamoda	8012-1015	8262

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YOUNG & THOMPSON
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

HAUGLAND, SCOTT J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3654

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicant(s)

10/084,959

KAMODA, TAKASHI

Examiner

Scott Haugland

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 2, line 6, it appears that "having" should be --of--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The language of claim 1, lines 18-19 is unclear. It appears that "slip" should be "allow slipping of" or the like. The language "being widened outside" of claim 2, line 5 is unclear. It has been interpreted to require the fitting arm to be bent outwardly of the U-shaped plate. The language of claim 5, lines 2-3 reciting that the slip prevention claw is widened in a direction parallel with the plate is unclear or inaccurate. This language

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appears to refer to the slip prevention claw being bent (Fig. 6) in a plane of the plate such that the spring is wider at the claw.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuno (US Pat. No. 6,006,044) in view of Leitmann (US Pat. No. 3,130,990).

Okuno discloses a film winding device comprising a spring attachment hollow 6b, a film-press spring 8 having a main body, a U-shaped plate (lower portion of spring in Fig. 1), a pressing arm for engaging the film, a fitting arm (upper portion of the short leg of spring 8). The spring 8 is press fit into the attachment hollow 6b (col. 3, lines 40-42).

Okuno does not disclose a slip prevention claw formed in the plate.

Leitmann teaches providing a spring device 10 having a main body with fitting arms 12 and a pressing arm 14 with a projecting slip prevention claw 24 engaging a sidewall of bore 21 to assist in retaining the spring device in the bore. The arms and

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claw are integrally formed with the main body of the spring device 10 (col. 2, lines 26-32).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the fitting arm press a wall surface of the attachment hollow 6b in order to accomplish the disclosed press fit to retain the spring in the attachment hollow. It would have been further obvious to provide the spring of Okuno with a slip prevention claw formed in the plate as taught by Leitmann in order to engage the attachment hollow and provide additional resistance to removal of the spring from the attachment hollow.

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuno in view of Leitmann as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Purcell (US Pat. No. 4,624,592).

Okuno does not disclose that the plate is smaller than the width of the attachment hollow and that the width of the spring near the fitting arm is greater than the width of the spring attachment hollow.

Purcell teaches forming a spring 3 (col. 4, line 36) having a U-shaped plate 11, a pressing arm 10, and a fitting arm 13 such that the width of the spring near the fitting arm is wider than at the plate (Fig. 1) so that the fitting arm 13 engages a side wall of an attachment hollow 17 to fix the spring in the attachment hollow. The above portions of the spring are integrally formed (col. 3, lines 31-38).

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the fitting arm of Okuno so that it is bent outwardly from the plate as taught by Purcell so that the fitting arm is pressed against the wall of the attachment hollow to lock the spring in place. It would have been obvious to make the width of the fitting arm and main body greater than the width of the attachment hollow to obtain the press fitting or locking engagement taught by Okuno and Purcell. It would have been a matter of obvious engineering choice to make the width of the plate a bit smaller than the width of the attachment hollow in order to allow easy insertion of the plate for mounting of the spring.

With regard to claim 3, it would have been obvious to integrally form the slip prevention claw with the other portions of the spring as taught by Okuno or Purcell to facilitate manufacture of the spring.

With regard to claim 5, it would have been a matter of obvious engineering choice to make the slip prevention claw extend parallel with the plate to engage the walls of the attachment hollow that are adjacent the edges of the plate in lieu of those facing the plate as either arrangement would clearly have provided the desired retaining effect.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Engelsmann et al, Harvey, Keeney et al, and Suzuki et al are cited to show apparatus for guiding and winding film onto spools.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Haugland whose telephone number is (703) 305-6498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday and every second Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

sjh
sjh
8/13/03

Kathy Matecki

KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600